



SOUTHEAST NEWS

June 2010

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-1611

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As our school year draws to a close, we want to thank all of you for your tremendous support and guidance. You have helped us to improve and enrich our programs at Southeast. I deeply appreciate the time and effort you have given on behalf of our Southeast students.

Once again, I would like to invite you to share your comments regarding how you feel we did in meeting the needs of your children. Please feel free to share your reflections with the teachers and/or me as appropriate.

I extend my best wishes to you and your family for a safe and fun-filled summer. Enjoy!

Fondly,
Norma Fisher-Doiron



Calendar of Events

May 31..... **NO SCHOOL** - Memorial Day 

June

June 1..... MMS to visit Southeast

June 2..... Book Fair
9:30-12:30 Second Grade Pen Pal Picnic



June 3..... Book Fair



June 4..... Book Fair
9:00-3:15 Third Grade field trip to Mystic Seaport
3:45-4:30 Last Day of Running Club
6:00-8:00 Ice Cream Social



June 5..... Kids Marathon at Norwich Free Academy

June 7..... 9:30-10:15 Suzuki Concert
7:00-8:00 PTO Meeting:
Books on Buses Summer Program

June 8..... Rain date for Second Grade Pen Pal picnic

June 10..... 7:30 Board of Education Meeting

June 11..... Fun In Our Own Backyard- all day
3:00 Schoolwide Assembly
7:00 MMS Class Night



June 14..... 7:00 Town Council Public Hearing:
4 Schools Project- Referendum Question
1st Rain date for Fun In Our Own Backyard

June 15..... 7:00 Fourth Grade Moving-On Ceremony



June 16..... 2nd Rain date for Fun In Our Own Backyard

June 17..... 7:00 MMS Closing Ceremony
Last Day for PreK- PM

June 18..... **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**
Progress Reports go home
8:15-8:45 Distance for Dads
7:00 E.O. Smith Graduation



June 20..... Father's Day

Incoming Kindergarteners

Please send in kindergarten physicals and paperwork as soon as possible for the 2010-2011 school year. Make sure that we also have proof of residency (rental agreement, utility bill) and **original** birth certificate (we will make a copy for our records).

MANY THANKS...

To our parents who volunteer to help during these busy school days. And... of course, thank you to our PTO officers this year

President.....Julie Brown
Vice President.....Andrea Lennon
Secretary.....Kimberly Clark
Treasurer.....Jennie Novick



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Grades K-4: Fri., June 18th. School will dismiss at 12:45

PreK - AM: Fri., June 18th. School will dismiss at 12:45
(Children need to bring a lunch or parents may pick-up at 11:45)

PreK- PM Thurs., June 17th. School will dismiss at 3:30

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

Please visit our website www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast



BUS SCHEDULES FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

We are making plans for the bus routes for the coming school year. Please let the office know right away if you are planning to move, or change bus arrangements or daycare providers.

If we do not hear from you, we will leave pick-up and drop-off just as it is now (same days, same destinations, etc.)

Please help us make our transition into the new school year as smooth as possible.

Moving?



As we begin planning for the 2010-2011 school year, it is important to have any information which will give us a better idea of which students will not be at Southeast Elementary next school year. If you will be moving from the Southeast District before next school year, please call the school office and let us know as soon as possible. Not only will this help in our planning, but it will also enable us to facilitate a smooth transition for your child to his or her new school.



Setting Goals for the Summer

We've spent a lot of time this year talking about and using good character. We've learned about Courage, Honesty, Attitude, Responsibility, Actions, Caring, Tolerance, Empathy and Respect. Students have been showing these traits in class and we hope they have at home, too.

Let's keep using our good character all summer long. We would like to return to our trait of ACTION to improve ourselves and our community. We are, therefore, asking all students to set a goal for the summer. They should find something they like or have always wanted to learn about or do. It's up to them! Get some ideas and then talk them over as a family. Once you've found a goal that's right for your child, make a plan to accomplish the goal. The hardest part is sticking to the plan. You may need to make adjustments but encourage them to keep at it! At the end of the summer, celebrate their success.

One example of setting a goal was when the students in the Running Club set a goal of running 25 miles. They made a plan to use time during Running Club on Fridays as well as Mileage Club during recess. Some students had to adjust their plan and come in before school to add to their mileage. They stuck with it and now they are celebrating their success by going to the KidsMarathon.

Your child's idea might be very different. He or she might want to try reading chapter books or writing a newsletter for your neighborhood. Your family could start a vegetable garden. Your child may want to learn to ride a two-wheeled bike.

FUN IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

Friday, June 11th



Once again, Southeast Elementary School will be having FUN IN OUR OWN BACKYARD—a day filled with games, relays, and other activities on our school grounds.

Following our routine morning activities in classrooms, the BACKYARD festivities will begin at 9:30 a.m. Children will participate in games, relays, and other activities throughout the morning. At the conclusion of the morning activities, lunch and recess, children will participate in afternoon activities.

- Please send your child to school dressed to be active and outside for the entire day. Comfortable play clothes are suggested.
- **YOUR CHILD WILL BE GETTING WET**, so ***please send a change of clothes***. We **DO NOT** have dry clothing to give to cold, wet children.
- **SNEAKERS ARE REQUIRED** as they are for P.E., so no other shoe apparel, please.
- A hat, if already owned, is good protection from the sun.
- **SUNSCREEN MUST BE APPLIED AT HOME.**

Parents are welcome and needed to help with our activities. Help is especially needed from 9:15 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. If you are able to lend a hand, please call and leave your name with Betsy Parker at 423-1611 ext. 125. Come and join in the fun!



**We are looking forward to a lot of
fun and excitement at
FUN IN OUR OWN BACKYARD.**

(Rain date will be Monday, June 14th)

LOST & FOUND



Please ask your child to look through the Lost & Found box located in the Art's Wing. Any items not claimed before the last day of school will be donated to Mansfield Youth Services.

Plan Ahead....

First day of school for
2010-2011 School Year:

Wednesday, September 1st



"Seeds of Hope"

Back in October, second graders participated in a project known as "Journey North Symbolic Migration". They sent handmade paper butterflies to students

in Mexico as a symbol of the monarch butterflies that leave the United States in the fall to spend winter in the warmer climate of our neighbors to the south. They sent messages in Spanish asking the kids to care for the paper butterflies just as they should care for the real monarchs during the winter months.

Usually, at this time of year, when the real monarchs return to us, we anxiously await the return of our paper butterflies. This year though, we received some sad news. We learned that devastating floods in Mexico back in February had caused the loss of massive numbers of real monarchs and had destroyed our paper butterflies as well.

We now know that the monarch butterfly population is in danger and we plan to help change that! Soon you will see a sign in the garden behind Southeast that says "Seeds of Hope". That's where second graders will plant milkweed, the only plant monarchs choose to lay eggs on. Second graders hope the butterflies will find our plants and they also hope that some of our Southeast families will consider planting milkweed as well. *Got Milkweed?*

Congratulations to our Food Service Manager, Maureen Gagne

Mrs. Gagne was named the winner of the 2010 School Nutrition Association of CT Louise Sublette Award. This award is the highest honor a food service manager can receive in the School Nutrition Association and represents many months of hard work on her part. Her book of information is exciting to read and reflects some very creative ideas. It indicates the many wonderful things happening in our district and the effort Maureen is making to create and maintain a healthy, contemporary school food service program for the students of Southeast School.

Maureen's success was honored at an Award's Banquet on May 27th at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven.

We are all very proud of Maureen for her hard work and creative ideas to keep us all inspired.



From the Green Thumbs Club

Thank you for your support during our plant sale.

Please send us your plant trays and used pots (especially the 3-inch and 4-inch pots). We can use them again next year. It would help us a great deal if you could rinse out the pots and remove any labels.



Welcome Aboard!

Mansfield Public & School Libraries have teamed up to provide the community with Books on Buses. Every one - - preschoolers, elementary school & middle schools students as well as adults are welcome to use the Books on Buses Bookmobile. Mrs. Meimers will be riding the bus and providing library services within the Southeast School district.

About Books on Buses

Books on Buses will provide library services to students and people in the community. Each bookmobile holds approximately 1,000 books, Pre-K through eighth grade, with some adult reading material as well. Each patron will be able to check out four books for one week using their MPL card.

The primary functions of the bookmobile service are to:

- provide reading materials to students Pre-K through eighth grade for their leisure, education and lifelong learning
- introduce the community to library collections and services
- conveniently provide popular materials in a variety of formats that will increase library use and encourage a lifelong desire to read
- present programs that encourage use of the bookmobile and the main library
- support basic literacy and ESL programs
- increase visibility of the library and the Friends of the Library by generating a positive image throughout the entire community

All you need in order to take out a book is your Mansfield Public Library card. On a typical day, the bus will be at the first stop at 8 a.m. and the last at 12 p.m. We will provide more information, including the stop locations and times, at the end of the year in the summer reading packets. The library recognizes that parents have the primary responsibility for guiding their children's reading, however, staff will be happy to help you find books and information you need.



Congratulations to Fred Dieter and Nancy Armstrong

The Southeast Staff and PTO wish to extend our congratulations to Fred Dieter, Art Teacher, and Nancy Armstrong, ESL Teacher, on their retirement. They have both been a great asset to our school and will be missed by all.



To the Many Volunteers Who Have Helped Us This Year:

WE APPRECIATE YOU!!!

You've been so very good to us, you've been kind in every way.
 You've made us treats and helped on all our special days.
 Today we'd like to thank you for all you've done this year,
 And to tell you that you're special and so very, very dear.
 Today we'd like to tell you in our own special way:
 We appreciate the things you've done more than words can say.

Did you participate in TV Turn-off Week this year?

Many Southeast School students and families chose to turn off their TVs and computers during the week of April 26-30. UConn interns, Ms. Cohn and Ms. Eyman, with help from Ms. DeVinney and Ms. Hardy put together an exciting week of activities and events.



There was a poster contest that featured creative student work promoting the goal of finding other things to do instead of watching TV. How exciting to see poster entries from preschool through fourth grade! The America Reads interns worked with Mrs. Meimers and our TV Turn-off Team to sponsor a Family Story Night on April 26th. Many of our younger students attended with their families to listen to a classic Eric Carle story and make a craft.

One highlight of the week was the annual Southeast Talent Show held on April 28th. There is certainly a lot of talent at Southeast! We saw students singing, dancing, playing instruments, and demonstrating karate and gymnastics. The week ended on a high note with a PTO sponsored dance.



Thank you to the many families who participated in activities that week. We hope you found some new things to do outside or with friends and family as summer approaches.



Caring For Our Community

We recently learned of a nice opportunity to help our neighbors in the community. There will be a fundraising event in July to benefit Mansfield and Windham Shelters and Food Kitchens. Southeast can help by putting together theme baskets that will be raffled off that evening. We've decided on a theme of gardening (ideas: kid or adult garden tools, gloves, hats, watering cans, wind chimes, stones or other garden accessories, kneelers, bug spray, even gift certificates).

If you would like to contribute an item for the baskets, please send it to school with your child before June 11th. We also need some help putting our basket together to make it look irresistible! If this is your talent, please contact Sue Irvine sue.irvine@mansfieldct.org 423-1611. As always, thanks for your help!

Southeast Runs



Miss Parker and Señora Hutton would like to say thanks to all the parents, staff, UCONN interns and athletes from ECSU and EO Smith who inspired students and supported our 2009-2010 Southeast Running and Mileage Clubs.

Our Running Club for third and fourth graders grew from 47 kids in the fall to 61 kids in the spring. Fifty-nine of these athletes will attend KIDSMARATHON to run with kids from across the state at Norwich Free Academy on June 5th. All members of our Running Club ran at least 25 miles with us and will go on to run the last mile to complete a marathon at this exciting event sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools. Southeast School is attending the event for the second year in a row.

Recess Mileage Club has continued to be the recess choice of large numbers of First - Fourth graders throughout the school year. Our kids choose to move!

Thanks so much. We couldn't have done it without you!



Health and Safety Issue: Unsupervised Animals on School Property

If you observe an unleashed or unsupervised animal on any school property either notify the owner, the Mansfield Animal Control Officer at 487-0317 or school officials at the Mansfield Board of Education at 429-3350.

Stories for Southeast

The Gift That Keeps on Giving



Books may be dedicated to your child in honor of his/her birthday, a thank you to someone special, in memory of a loved one, congratulations, or any occasion. The following books have been purchased for our school library:

- The Twelve Dancing Princesses... To all my teachers and friends who love to read! From Gina Sydie
- Cornelia and the Great Snake Escape In Memory of Edward Gingell, Corinne Bergeron's stepfather. He loved to read..... From The Southeast Staff
- I'm Numer One In Memory of Edward Gingell, Corinne Bergeron's stepfather. He loved to read..... From The Southeast PTO
- I Always, Always Get My Way..... In Memory of Edward Gingell, Corinne Bergeron's stepfather. He loved to read..... From Norma Fisher-Doiron

If you are interested in purchasing a book for our library, please contact Linda Sydie at 423-1282 or you can email her at lsydie@snet.net for more information.



Keeping Children Safe in the Sun

It is now well known that exposure to sun puts people at risk for skin cancer and premature aging and that most of that exposure comes during childhood (80% of a person's lifetime sun exposure occurs before they are 21). Regular use of sunscreen in children can lower their risk of skin cancer by almost 78%.

There are many sunscreens available for safe use in children over six months old. Pick one that offers UVA and UVB protection and that has a SPF of 15 or higher (especially if your child has light skin). Apply the sunscreen in a thick coat at least 30-45 minutes before going outside and reapply every two hours (or more often if he/she is swimming or perspiring heavily).

Here are some other tips to protect your child from the damaging effects of the sun.

- Wear protective clothing, including a hat and long sleeve shirt and long pants. Keep in mind that most clothing only has a SPF of 5-9, so you can still get sun damage with a shirt on.
- Limit exposure to the sun when it is at its strongest (10am-4pm).
- Protect your child's eyes with sunglasses that protect against UVA and UVB radiation.
- Use sunscreen daily, even if it is cloudy, since most of the sun's radiation penetrates clouds and can still cause sun burn.
- Consider using a sunscreen with ingredients (such as zinc oxide or titanium dioxide) that physically block the sun's radiation if your child has sensitive skin.

Please encourage your child to drink more water during summer days.



Lyme Disease - Still a Concern

Lyme disease is an infectious disease that can cause arthritis as one of its symptoms. The infection occurs when a deer tick that is infected with the spirochete bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* bites a human and transmits the bacteria to the human.



The bacteria usually produces a rash and mild flu-like symptoms are often not noticed or are ignored by the person. After weeks and months of untreated infection, more symptoms may develop, including heart and nervous system problems and arthritis.

Lyme disease can be cured with antibiotic treatment. If the disease is caught early, treatment does not take too long and is very successful. If the disease has gone on for a long time before antibiotics are begun, treatment may take a while and it can take months for the symptoms to clear up.

Anyone who is bitten by an infected tick can develop Lyme disease. Ticks in different sections of the United States and Europe are most likely to be carrying the bacteria. Endemic areas of the United States include the northeastern, middle Atlantic and north central states, as well as some areas of the north Pacific coast. Children tend to get Lyme disease more often than adults because they tend to play in the tall grass and woods where ticks live.

For more information and tips on prevention and how to remove ticks, log on to www.arthritis.org.

(information courtesy of www.arthritis.org)

Family Fun in Connecticut

Connecticut is filled with opportunities for family fun all year long. For information and ideas on indoor and outdoor home activities and places to visit around the state, check out the website: www.ctparenting.com and click on Family Fun.

The Family Fun categories include:

- Camps & Campgrounds
- Children's Fun
- Sports
- Arts & History
- Parks



There's so much to do and see in Connecticut!

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At www.Life.FamilyEducation.com, you'll find information for parents on every aspect of family life. Browse their resources on child health, child development, nutrition for kids and teens, fitness for the whole family, and child safety. You'll also find information on social and emotional issues, like child discipline, communicating with your kids, teaching good behavior, and building your child's self-esteem. Don't miss the tips on family travel, vacations, and family finance!



PTO Updates & Events:

2009 -2010 PTO OFFICERS

President.....Julie Brown
 Vice President.....Andrea Lennon
 Treasurer.....Kimberly Clark
 Secretary.....Jennie Novick

Officer Elections for 2010-2011

At the May PTO meeting the following PTO officers were elected for next year:

President.....Julie Brown,
 Vice-presidentAndrea Lennon
 Secretary.....Mike Kelly
 TreasurerKimberly Clark

Thanks to outgoing Secretary Jennie Novick for all her help this year.



School Dance

Thanks to Andrea Lennon and Wendy Guyette for organizing the fantastic "Under the Sea" school dance. Between the DJ and the games, including a limbo line, everyone had a great time. Thanks also to Mrs. Anger for the hat and fish decorations.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon



On Wednesday, May 5th, the PTO held its annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the Staff Lounge. The Southeast staff was treated to a "Tropical Escape" luncheon, complete with island music and tropical decor. It was truly a pleasant and relaxing get-away with delicious food enjoyed by all.

A special thanks to Nanette Bidwell and Karen Mitlitsky for organizing the luncheon.

We would like to thank all of the families for the foods that they prepared and dropped off.

A special thank you to Maureen Gagne in the kitchen for all of her assistance and support. She was a tremendous help!



7th Annual PTO Tag Sale Another Huge Success

This year's Tag Sale made over \$1200 for the PTO! Thank you to Andrea Lennon for the huge job of organizing it. Thanks to Dave Delaney for signs and truck driving, Richelle Strimple for flyers, Sarah Kaufold for advertising, and Ross Lennon's grandfather for making the tag sale signs for in front of the school.

A big thank you to the following people for loading and unloading: Mike Kelly, Suzanne Kelly, Ruth Washington, Laura Corsini, Tom Pearl, Hope Pearl, Jess Higham, Karen Molloy, Karen Sommer, Monique Brown, Karen Mitlitsky, Nancy Trudeau, Erin Ballou, Celine Demers-Schiffler, Heather Spottiswoode, and Julie Brown. Our sincere thanks to Bill Bradley and Angel Ortiz for all of their help. A special thank you to the Cassells family for donating drinking water to keep us all going.

And thanks also to all who donated their items to the tag sale. The shed was bursting at its seams this year!



Cool Down at the Ice Cream Social

Friday, June 4TH 6:30-8:00

The PTO will be hosting their Annual Ice Cream Social fundraiser on Friday, June 4th. Family and friends are welcome. Bring a blanket and a picnic dinner and enjoy Shady Glen ice cream on a warm summer's evening at the Southeast playground. Ice cream is \$2 per bowl with all the toppings - whipped cream, chocolate syrup, strawberries, and sprinkles. Volunteers are needed. Contact Julie Brown at 860-429-0801 or julie.medill@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to stop in at the Book Fair while you're there!
 All proceeds to benefit the Southeast PTO fund.

Scholastic Book Fair

June 2nd, 3rd & 4th

8:45 - 4:00

(and also during the Ice Cream Social)



Book Fair week is a very exciting time for our school and we'd love to have you join us in making it a success. We invite you to participate in this celebration of reading, which raises funds for our school.

We are looking for volunteers to help out during the Book Fair. Please contact our Book Fair Chairperson, Ruth Washington at 477-0096 or email her at ruth.washington@uconn.edu.

Distance for Dads



Enjoy some fresh air and exercise with the kids!
 Join us on the Southeast playground on Fri., June 18th from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Southeast Parents' Hour

We had two Parents' Hours in May. Joanne Freiberg of the Connecticut State Department of Education talked about "Acts of Meanness" and Mansfield Food Services Director Beth Gankofskie talked about the snacks and lunches served in school. Ms. Gankofskie and Mrs. Fisher-Doiron are forming a committee of parents and staff to discuss food issues in the schools. If you are interested in being on the committee, contact Mrs. Fisher-Doiron.

Congratulations and Good Luck to our 4TH Grade Students

The Southeast PTO would like to extend our congratulations and wish good luck to all the 4th graders that are moving on to the Middle School! We hope they will always remember their years at Southeast and even come back to visit once-in-a-while!

